Estimates of the proportion and the number of poor are based on (i) Poverty line and (ii) distribution of households according to expenditure classes. The poverty line refers to a minimum level of living expressed as a certain level of per capita expenditure. The Task Force on "Projection of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand" (1979) defined the poverty line as a per capita monthly consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices. The poverty line so defined is updated for price changes over time using the price rise as reflected in the private consumption deflator in the National Accounts Statistics. To arrive at the estimates of the poor, the poverty line is used to segregate poor from the non-poor using the data on household consumption expenditure collected by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in their comprehensive sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted generally at quinquennial intervals. The last such survey for which such results are available relates to 1987-88. Estimates of incidence of poverty for later years comparable to those made on the basis of the 1987-88 survey are not available.

Exporters' Grievance Redressal Cell

1958. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an Exporters' Grievance Redressal Cell (ERC) to monitor specific complaints from exporters for quick redressal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many complaints have so far been received and disposed off by the ERC; and

(d) what sort of complaints are received by ERC and how much time is generally taken in their disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Exporters' Grievances Redressal Cell (ERC) has been formed to entertain and monitor disposal of suggestions and difficulties of exporters and to facilitate early action on such issues.

(c) During the period July 1993 to 31.7.1995, 835 cases were received in the ERC, out of which 748 have been disposed of.

(d) Specific grievances as well as suggestions on policy issues concerning exporters are received. No such time frame can be indicated for policy issues while specific grievances are endeavoured to be disposed of within four weeks.

Gems and Jewellery Exports from NEPZ

1959. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of gems and jewellary from the Noida Export Processing Zone (NEPZ) has increased during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps to ensure increasing trend of export of these items during 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export of gems & jewellery from the Noida Export Processing Zone (NEPZ) during last two years is given below:

Year	Export	%Growth
	(Rs. in crores)	
1993-94	64.02	
1994-95	123.31	92.50

(c) and (d) Gems & Jewellery constitute a thrust area of our exports. The Government has taken various steps to boost exports from this sectors. The steps include fine tuning of policies, ensuring easy availability of raw materials at internationally competitive prices, encouraging exporters to participate in international exhibitions, etc.

Surplus Employees in Super Bazar

1960. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of surplus employees working in the Super Bazar as on date, branch-wise;